

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2005

No. 05-2534

Alaska Marine Highway System Wins "All American Road" Designation

(Washington, DC) – At a mid-day ceremony at Washington's historic Union Station, US Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta (represented by George Schoener, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at USDOT and Rick Capka, Acting FHWA Administrator) today awarded the Alaska Marine Highway System the distinction as an "All-American Road," the highest recognition afforded in the USDOT's America's Byways program. The only other highway in Alaska that is recognized as an All-American Road is the Seward Highway.

The ferry system has been a "Scenic Byway" under the program since 1997. To be designated as a National Scenic Byway, a road must possess at least one of the six intrinsic qualities (historic, cultural, natural, scenic, recreational, archeological). The features contributing to the distinctive characteristics of the corridor's intrinsic qualities must possess regional significance.

Numerous highways, or portions of highways, throughout the state are recognized as Scenic Byways, including portions of the Richardson, Glenn, Parks, Haines, Steese, Sterling, Taylor and Dalton Highways, as well as the Alaska Railroad.

To receive the more prestigious All-American Road designation, a road must possess multiple intrinsic qualities that are nationally significant, and contain one-of-a-kind features that do not exist elsewhere. The road must also be considered a "destination unto itself." That is, the road must provide an exceptional traveling experience so recognized by travelers that the primary reason for their trip would be to drive along the Byway.



(left to right): George Schoener, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, USDOT; Vern Craig, AMHS Marketing Director; Senator Murkowski; John MacKinnon, Deputy Commissioner for Highways & Public Facilities, Alaska DOT&PF; Aneta Synan, Byways program coordinator, Alaska DOT&PF; and J. Richard Capka, acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, USDOT.

The Alaska Marine Highway System is one of seven routes that to be designated as All-American Roads at today's event, bringing the total nationwide to 27.

"With 3,500 nautical miles of spectacular scenery, the Alaska Marine Highway is the longest byway in the U.S. and the only maritime 'road' in the national highway system," said Governor Frank H. Murkowski. "It is totally fitting for it to be recognized as an All-American Road, even though some of the scenery is Canadian."

"The recognition by USDOT that the Alaska Marine Highway System is a destination unto itself, and that travelers from around the world come to Alaska specifically to ride on and enjoy our ferries is a welcome honor," said Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Commissioner Mike Barton. "The All-American Road designation provides a higher level of promotion for the ferry system in nationwide publications and funding for the community groups in coastal Alaska whose interest is in marketing the system's attributes."

The designation will bring national and international exposure to the already popular ferry system. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will now promote the AMHS through its America's byways maps and other public and private cooperative projects. The designation also increases the Highway's eligibility for federal grants.

"We are thrilled to receive this designation, not only for the ferry system, but for Alaska," said Robin Taylor, DOT&PF deputy commissioner for marine transportation. "This will enable us to continue enhancing the services we provide to Alaskans. And it lets potential visitors know that this is one of the most unique and beautiful ways to enjoy our state."

Requirements for the All American Road designation include:

- The ability to safely and conveniently accommodate two-wheel-drive automobiles with standard clearances
- The ability to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic where feasible
- The ability to safely accommodate conventional tour buses
- Completion of a Corridor Management Plan that meets FHWA requirements

The Alaska Marine Highway System has 11 vessels serving 33 communities along a route of 3,500 miles from Bellingham, WA to the Aleutian Chain.

Longtime ferry captain retires

By SCOTT BOWLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

Capt. Phil Taylor is set to retire from the Alaska Marine Highway System this week after a 33-year career that began and ended with the state ferry Columbia.

Taylor, who has served as master of the AMHS flagship for the past nine years, officially retires from state employ on Friday. He plans to return to sea soon, however, as a marine pilot with the Southeast Alaska Pilots Association.

The story of Taylor's rise though the AMHS ranks to captain is a classic "up-through-the-hawse-pipe" tale.

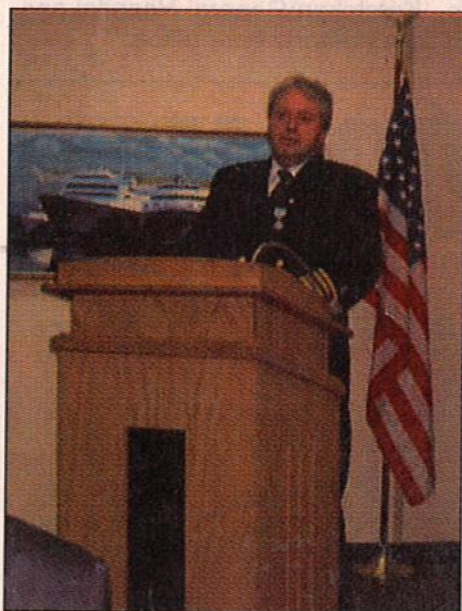
After graduating from Ketchikan High School in 1973, Taylor, who was younger than most of his peers, sought work at the Ketchikan Pulp Co. mill.

"I was trying to get a job at the pulp mill with the rest of my mates, but they wouldn't hire me because they were full," Taylor told the Daily News this past week.

So Taylor put his name in at AMHS, which hired him to wash pots and pans in Columbia's scullery. He was 18 when he reported for duty the first time on July 2, 1974.

"I liked the job," Taylor said.

But the head chef consistently scorched soup pots beyond redemp-



Capt. Phil Taylor of the Alaska Marine Highway System speaks at a Juneau ceremony honoring crew members of the ferry Columbia for their role in assisting a grounded cruise ship in May 2006.

Photo courtesy Phil Taylor

tion, he said.

"He'd burn every pot, and some of them, I just couldn't get the stuff out of the bottom," Taylor said. "They ended up making nice stainless steel condos for crabs and fish along the channels."

Ambitious young men don't scrub pots for long, and Taylor soon was cooking aboard the Columbia, serving up exquisite crab and shrimp salads for Columbia's dining room and doing short-order cooking in the ship's cafeteria.

He spent more than three years in the steward's department, biding his time until his seniority built up and he could try for a job in the deck department.

"That was my main goal ... which would allow me to acquire sea time, which is very important in the merchant marine," Taylor said.

He bid for an ordinary seaman position on the AMHS ferry Tustumena out of Seward — and got the job.

"I had a great time up there," he said. "I learned a lot. I got some sea time under my belt, which allowed me to come back down to Southeast and continue working in the deck department."

He said he began to view the AMHS career ladder as similar to the Boy Scouts.

"The more merit badges — sea time — you get, the more exams you take and pass, the quicker you get to Eagle Scout," Taylor said. "And that's what I started doing, racking up the sea time, and every time I had enough to take the next

See 'Community Cache,' page 3

1/29/2008

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1/24-27/2008

DOCK DESIGNS



Barriers of different shapes add to the design mosaic of the downtown dock recently as a car navigates a concrete section. The Alaska Marine Highway System ferry Kennicott, seen in the background, is tied up at the Berth III dock for the winter.

Staff photo by Hall Anderson

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Captain Bill Hopkins Collection

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2008
DOT&PF Chief Communications Officer: Roger Wetherell, 465-8994

No. 08-2576

Photo Release

Chenega crew rescues three Alaskans after boat sinks

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Fast Rescue Boat crewmembers from the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry Chenega begin rescuing three Alaskans whose boat sank Sunday afternoon off the coast of Whittier. The crew rescued 28-year-old Homer resident Luke Renner, Andy Renner, 31 of Palmer and his eight-year-old son Owen Renner. *(Photo courtesy of an unidentified Chenega passenger)*



Chenega crew rescues three Alaskans after boat sinks

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Three Alaskans are alive today after the crew aboard the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) fast ferry Chenega pulled them from the chilly waters near Whittier Sunday afternoon.

Chenega and its crew departed Whittier at 4 p.m. and encountered a debris field six minutes into its transit to Cordova. The crew spotted the debris and the three boaters about a mile southeast of Billing Creek in Passage Canal.

Chenega's skipper, Capt. Samuel Daniels, immediately sounded the "code blue" signal alerting the crew and passengers of people in distress. Daniels also shifted control of Chenega from the bridge to the port bridge wing to maneuver the ship closer to the three people in the water.

Within three minutes, Chenega's Fast Rescue Boat (FRB) crew sped to the boaters who were clinging to debris to remain afloat. Chenega's crew rescued 28-year-old Luke Renner of Homer and Andy Renner, 31 and his eight-year-old son Owen, both of Palmer. Their 22-foot pleasure boat reportedly sank after the vessel's bow was struck by several waves.

"I was so amazed at how fast the crew got to us," said Luke Renner. "I'll be booking reservations on the ferries from now on."

The Chenega rescuers aboard the FRB transported the threesome to Chenega where they received medical attention from the crew and passengers Laura Evans and Kristin Burkart, intensive care unit doctors from New York City.

Chenega returned to the Whittier Ferry Terminal where it was met by a Whittier Fire Department ambulance crew who took the Renner's to a medical facility in Anchorage for treatment of hypothermia.

"I am just so thankful that you (AMHS) had your ship in the water yesterday," said Luke Renner.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 2, 2008
DOT&PF Chief Communications Officer: Roger Wetherell, 465-8994

No. 08-25118

Chenega crew rescues kayakers, Marks second mariner assist this year

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Crewmembers from the Alaska Marine Highways System ferry Chenega rescued four kayakers Sunday afternoon in Passage Canal off the shores of Whittier.

Chenega's captain, Sam Daniels, said a radio call was relayed to Chenega at 2:33 p.m. requesting assistance to help four kayakers who were in distress.

Within 11 minutes, Chenega's rescue boat was launched and speeding away from the 235-foot ferry to rescue the kayakers.

By 2:50 p.m., coxswain Guy Beedle and his assistant Ian Russell had pulled the kayakers aboard the rescue boat and safely transported them to a nearby petroleum dock in the harbor where they were met by medical personnel.

The kayakers are identified as Anchorage residents Katie Longden, Hunter Burton, Kim Uddipa and Mitch Mark.

"They paddled out of Whittier for years, and checked the weather prior to departing Saturday, but were caught by surprise when things came up about six hours sooner than expected," said Daniels. "Winds were around 30 knots and seas were about three feet."

According to Daniels, the Anchorage foursome encountered breaking waves that tossed them from their kayaks when weather conditions deteriorated.

Earlier this year, Chenega's crew rescued three boaters whose vessel sank June 9 near Whittier.



Harbor rescue: Chenega's rescue boat crew (center) pulls four Anchorage kayakers safely aboard the ferry's rescue boat Sunday afternoon off the coast of Whittier. (Official DOT&PF photo by Chenega crewmember)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 4, 2008
DOT&PF Chief Communications Officer: Roger Wetherell, 465-8994

No. 08-25137

Chenega captain to accept lifesaving award at Big Apple gala

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry Chenega and its crew will be honored Friday night during an estimated 800-attendee gala in New York City.

Chenega's skipper, Capt. Samuel Daniels, will attend the Admiral of the Ocean Sea award dinner ceremony where he will accept the Honored Seafarer Award on behalf of the ship, AMHS and the State of Alaska.

AMHS and the Chenega crew are being honored for the rescue Chenega's crew performed June 8 after they plucked two men and a boy out of the frigid waters of Prince William Sound near Southcentral Alaska.

The award presentation and dinner is hosted and coordinated by the United Seamens Service (USS). The USS is an organization that has promoted the welfare of seamen since 1942 and supplies seagoing libraries to the American Merchant Marine, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, and to seafarers of allied nations through its affiliate, the American Merchant Marine Library Association, Public Library of the High Seas since 1921.

"Each member of Team Chenega has every reason to be incredibly proud of their lifesaving actions and the value they place on the lives of others who travel Alaska's dangerous waters," said Leo von Scheben, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

Chenega's Fast Rescue Boat (FRB) crew sped to the boaters who were clinging to debris to remain afloat. Chenega's crew rescued 28-year-old Luke Renner of Homer and Andy Renner, 31, and his eight-year-old son Owen, both of Palmer, on that Alaska summer day. Their 22-foot pleasure boat reportedly sank after the vessel's bow was struck by several waves.

"I was so amazed at how fast the crew got to us," said Luke Renner. "I'll be booking reservations on the ferries from now on." Chenega's crew also rescued four kayakers in September who found themselves in stormy seas and 30-knot winds off the shores of Whittier, Alaska.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 21, 2005

No. 05-2507

M/V *Malaspina* Aids Disabled Skiff in BC Ferry's Rescue Boat Tows Skiff to Shelter in Lama Passage

(Juneau) – The state ferry M/V *Malaspina* recently came to the aid of a disabled skiff while traveling northbound through the Inside Passage in British Columbia.

At about 2:15 p.m. on Saturday, January 15, the crew of the *Malaspina* observed a flare fired from an open skiff approximately 2 miles ahead of the ferry in Lama Passage, approximately four miles south of Bella Bella, British Columbia. The *Malaspina* crew launched a fast rescue boat, which proceeded to the skiff. The *Malaspina* crew notified the Canadian Coast Guard at Prince Rupert of the situation, which also dispatched a rescue boat from Bella Bella. The ferry's rescue boat crew had the skiff in tow within minutes to a sheltered area behind Walker Island, where it was handed over to the Coast Guard boat crew. In all, the operation took about 40 minutes, after which the *Malaspina* was released to proceed on its voyage to Ketchikan.

"We were just happy we were there at the right time to provide assistance," said Captain Larry Sackett, the *Malaspina*'s master on duty at the time. "The waters of the Inside Passage can be deadly, so it is the duty of mariners to offer assistance. Fortunately, this time, wind and weather were not difficult, so everything went well."

The *Malaspina* makes a weekly round-trip voyage between Bellingham, Washington and ports throughout Southeast Alaska.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 10, 2008
DOT&PF Chief Communications Officer: Roger Wetherell, 465-8994

No. 08-25139

Chenega skipper accepts lifesaving award before 800 in New York City

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) Capt. Samuel Daniels accepted the Honored Seafarer Award on behalf of the ship, AMHS and the State of Alaska Friday night during the Admiral of the Ocean Sea award dinner ceremony in New York City.



New York – AMHS Capt. Samuel Daniels displays the award he accepted Friday night for his crew's lifesaving efforts of three people earlier this year. Official DOT&PF photo by Roger W. Wetherell

AMHS and the Chenega crew were honored for the rescue Chenega's crew performed June 8 after they plucked two men and a boy out of the frigid waters of Prince William Sound near Southcentral Alaska.

Chenega's Fast Rescue Boat (FRB) crew sped to the boaters who were clinging to debris to remain afloat. Chenega's crew rescued 28-year-old Luke Renner of Homer and Andy Renner, 31, and his eight-year-old son Owen, both of Palmer, on that Alaska summer day. Their 22-foot pleasure boat reportedly sank after the vessel's bow was struck by several waves.

About 800 people attended the ceremony including U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Thad W. Allen.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 10 , 2009

No. 09-2536

AMHS honored in list of world's top ten ferry rides

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – In a recent report issued by the Society of American Travel Writers, the group named the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) as one of the top ten ferry rides worldwide.

The report, available online at www.satw.org/admin/detail_news.asp?Sid=26&Id=694&parent=15 , lists the world's top ten ferry rides and names the AMHS as number eight.

"Not only is the Alaska State Ferry System a bargain way to enjoy the Inside Passage, but you can get on and off the boat for independent exploration. Or haul your car down on the boat after driving up on the Alaska Highway," wrote Alan Solomon, freelance travel writer.

The AMHS has been operating year-round since 1963, with regularly scheduled passenger and vehicle service to 30 communities in Alaska, plus Bellingham, Wash., and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. There are currently eleven vessels in the AMHS fleet. "Your state's ferry system is very proud to have these accolades bestowed upon them," said Leo von Scheben, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. "The entire AMHS team works very hard to achieve success and bring to its customers the best possible marine transportation service possible."

In 2008, according to the AMHS Annual Traffic Volume Report, passenger embarkation exceeded 340,000, almost 20,000 more than in 2007. Vehicle embarkation aboard AMHS vessels surpassed the 109,000 mark, an almost 5,000 vehicle difference above the 2007 totals.

In a recent memo to DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner Jim Beedle, Alaska Representative Beth Kerttula wrote "I just learned that the Alaska Marine Highway System was recently named one of the top 10 most exciting ferry rides in the world, and I send my congratulations."

During the past ten years the AMHS has carried an average of 320,000 passengers and 97,000 vehicles per year along 3,500 miles, one of the most expansive marine highway systems in the world.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 18, 2009

No. 09-25110

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Gustavus Causeway Groundbreaking Ceremony Set for Friday

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) will officially recognize the start-up of the Gustavus Causeway replacement project with a groundbreaking ceremony Friday at 1:45 p.m., in Gustavus.

The project will construct a 1,300-foot long, two-lane causeway with a sidewalk for improved pedestrian safety. The facility will provide multi-modal roll-on/roll-off capability via a pontoon-supported, tidally-operated transfer bridge (with ramp and apron). The dock will allow access for current common carrier barge lines, petroleum barges, as well as transport and sightseeing vessels.

[Groundbreaking video](#) (AVI format - 475 KB) Having trouble downloading this video? [Contact us.](#)

The project is the result of the combined effort of DOT&PF, the City of Gustavus and the National Park Service with funding supported by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, the National Park Service, the State of Alaska and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"The project will provide jobs and stimulate the economy during the construction period," said DOT&PF Commissioner Leo von Scheben. "I am confident that this safe, environmentally responsible and modern dock will provide long term economic opportunities."

Locally, this project will provide on-site employment for about 30 workers from the pile-buck, pile-buck welder, heavy equipment operator, surveyor, electrician and laborer trades and crafts during the estimated one-to-one and a half years of construction. Neighboring communities will see employment for up to 15 workers during extraction, hauling, barging and placement of the approximately 40,000 cubic yards of embankment and armor rock for the inter-tidal staging area embankment.

The existing dock and causeway were built in the 1960s to serve five homesteads and no longer allows for freight operations and lessens the community and park's ability to provide necessary services to support an estimated 60,000 visitors and a thriving local fishing industry.

The \$19 million dock, causeway and ferry landing is to be completed by the winter of 2010.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2009

No. 09-25113

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DOT&PF, Others Break Ground in Gustavus



[CLICK PHOTO FOR HIGHER RESOLUTION VERSION](#)

Digging In: Officials gathered June 19 in Gustavus for the groundbreaking ceremony of a new causeway and dock system construction project. Pictured from left are Gustavus Mayor Bill Unkel, DOT&PF Commissioner Leo von Scheben, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Cherry Payne and DOT&PF Southeast Regional Director Gary Davis. (Official DOT&PF photo by Roger W. Wetherell)

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 3, 2009

No. 09-25141

□

Juneau Man, AMHS Skipper Retires After 34-Year Career

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Juneau resident and longtime Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) Capt. Ronald Bressette recently retired following a 34-year career.

Bressette began his AMHS career in 1975, ascending to the rank of captain before retiring as a master aboard the 235-foot ferry LeConte.

"Captain Bressette's professional performance helped AMHS to keep to the course - to become the unique transportation system that it is today," said Jim Beedle, Deputy Commissioner of Marine Operations, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.



[CLICK FOR HIGHER RESOLUTION PHOTO](#)

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Capt. John Falvey, general manager for the AMHS, presents a retirement plaque to Capt. Ronald Bressette (right) aboard the ferry LeConte following the ship's stop in Tenakee Springs. Official DOT&PF photo by Roger W. Wetherell)

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 22, 2009

No. 09-25165

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Ferry Taku Crew to Receive Coast Guard Award for Saving Fishermen

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Crewmembers from the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry Taku will be honored by the Coast Guard at a 1:15 p.m., award ceremony, Friday, Oct. 23 while the ship is moored at the Auke Bay ferry terminal.

The Taku was sailing from Juneau to Hoonah when its skipper, Capt. Thomas Moore, heard the Coast Guard's radio call for assistance to other mariners in the area at 10:40 p.m., Oct. 13. The Coast Guard reported that the 55-foot boat Alaska Pride was on fire with two people aboard three miles south of Funter Bay in Chatham Strait.

Capt. Moore changed Taku's course to search for the two men, arriving in about 30 minutes. Once on scene, Taku's crew safely pulled Mike Worthington and deckhand Darren Manual from a life raft onto the ferry as the fishing boat continued to burn.

"Capt. Moore and his crew performed admirably to save fellow mariners in distress," said Capt. John Falvey, General Manager, AMHS. "Our ferry crews constantly train for all types of at-sea incidents, and recognize that saving a life is more important than staying on schedule."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2010

No. 10-2511

□

AMHS, Partners Sign Five Year Education Program Agreement

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS), University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) and the Inlandboatmen's Union (IBU) of the Pacific signed a five-year education program memorandum of agreement Feb. 25, in Ketchikan.

The agreement extends the three-party program allowing UAS students who have completed two semesters of instruction that include diesel mechanics, marine transmissions, marine auxiliary systems, and refrigeration and air conditioning to complete an internship on board AMHS vessels.

The program began in 2000 and has been beneficial to the AMHS in finding qualified applicants for positions as oilers aboard the 11 ships in its fleet.

"We've hired many of this program's graduates, because it produces qualified oilers to fill these crucial positions on our vessels," said Capt. John Falvey, general manager, AMHS.

Currently, UAS has four interns ready for placement with the AMHS this year. The interns have all completed familiarization trips aboard the ferry LeConte and will next proceed to the UAS Basic Safety Training class and other AMHS required new hire courses. They will then begin their internships on board an AMHS mainline ship.

The students participate in the internships to prepare for examinations required to obtain U.S. Coast Guard endorsement ratings and qualifications to apply for engine room jobs with the AMHS.

Learn more about the AMHS online at www.ferryalaska.com.

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From left: Inlandboatmen's Union representative Daryl Tseu, Captain John Falvey and Dr. Kristy Smith, UAS Interim Associate Dean of Career Education sign the five-year program extension Feb. 25, at AMHS headquarters in Ketchikan. (Official DOT&PF photo by Amy Wilson, AMHS)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 2010

No. 10-2519

AMHS Receives Coast Guard Partner in Search and Rescue Award

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) received a U.S. Coast Guard Partner in Search and Rescue award during a ceremony here April 18.

Coast Guard Capt. Melissa Bert, along with Juneau Mayor Bruce Botelho, presented the award to Jim Beedle, Deputy Commissioner of Marine Operations, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

The award cited the AMHS for its professionalism and stewardship while assisting those in need during critical missions involving search and rescue.

According to the Coast Guard, AMHS has - on countless occasions - proved to be vital in locating vessels reported overdue by promptly responding to Coast Guard Urgent Marine Information Broadcasts and rescuing mariners in distress.



[CLICK PHOTO TO VIEW LARGER IMAGE](#)

From left are: Juneau Mayor Bruce Botelho, U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Melissa Bert and Jim Beedle, DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner of Marine Operations (Official DOT&PF photo by Roger W. Wetherell)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16, 2010

No. 10-2539

AMHS Receives Coast Guard Awards

(JUNEAU, Alaska) –The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) was honored recently during an award ceremony in the nation's capital for its 2009 participation in the U.S. Coast Guard's Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System (AMVER).

The awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., coincided with a meeting among Alaska's congressional delegation staffers by Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner of Marine Operations, Jim Beedle and AMHS General Manager John Falvey. The pair also met with Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority representatives.

During 2009, AMHS crews and vessels joined hundreds of other nations in providing a worldwide safety network to assist search and rescue coordinators in responding to emergencies at sea.

AMVER, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a computer-based and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to assist people in distress at sea. With AMVER, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond.

AMVER's mission is to quickly provide search and rescue authorities, on demand, accurate information on vessel positions and characteristics of vessels near a reported distress.

Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the AMVER computer center. Vessel operators then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project ship positions at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of AMVER ships near the distress location. On any given day there are more than 3,700 ships available to conduct search and rescue services.



[CLICK PHOTO TO VIEW LARGER IMAGE](#)

U.S. Coast Guard Admiral David Pekoske presents a Certificate of Merit to Jim Beedle (left) and Capt. John Falvey (right) in May during the annual AMVER awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. Beedle and Falvey also accepted pennants on behalf of the ferries Kennecott and Tustumena for display on the vessels' main topmasts. (Photo by Beverly Howard, AMVER)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 30, 2010

No. 10-2542

DOT&PF Purchases Ward Cove Land for AMHS

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) purchased 30 acres of property at Ketchikan's Ward Cove, commonly known as the veneer mill/sawmill, for use by the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS).

"Acquiring this land will provide for AMHS' future growth and will be used to consolidate the ferry system's warehouse, headquarters building, working berth and other building spaces," said DOT&PF Commissioner Leo von Scheben.

According to Jim Beedle, DOT&PF's deputy commissioner of marine operations, proximity to the Alaska Ship and Dry Dock will also be advantageous for the AMHS where most maintenance is performed for the system's fleet.

DOT&PF paid \$2.64 million to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough for the property including the former Gateway Forest Products veneer warehouse, and 9.5 acres of uplands near the warehouse and 20.5 acres of adjacent tidelands.

In addition to its plan to consolidate its main warehouses at the Ward Cove location, Beedle said the AMHS will soon begin the process of choosing a location on the property where it will begin designing a new headquarters building.

The purchase does not include the former Ketchikan Pulp Company docks or its former administration building the borough is currently leasing to the AMHS.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 10, 2010

No. 10-2556

Ferry Chenega Crew Renders Aid to Possible Heart Attack Victim

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Crewmembers from the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) ferry Chenega put their lifesaving and response skills to work once again in Prince William Sound Sunday afternoon.

The fast vehicle ferry was traveling to Cordova after departing Whittier at 4 p.m., when the crew overheard a radio call to the U.S. Coast Guard from someone aboard the 28-foot charter vessel Patriot Express. The caller indicated a man aboard the boat was suffering seizures.

Chenega's captain, Capt. Sam Daniels, determined Chenega's crew could respond quickly and aid the 71-year-old man.

Daniels directed a crewman to determine if any passenger were qualified healthcare professionals and able to offer assistance.

Two passengers, Dr. Phillip Myers of Illinois and registered nurse Gayleen Marmarelis from California, volunteered to help.

In less than 20 minutes, Capt. Daniels and his crew launched Chenega's fast rescue boat with Able Seaman Guy Beedle at the helm, Passenger Services Worker Julia Ross assisting and with Myers and Marmarelis on board.

"It only took a minute or two before our rescue boat was alongside the Patriot Express and the doctor and nurse were aboard stabilizing and treating the man with oxygen," Daniels explained.

The Patriot Express continued traveling to the fuel dock in Whittier to waiting EMT's. The now conscious man was prepared for a Coast Guard helicopter medevac. His condition was not known to AMHS officials following the medevac.

Twice in 2008, Chenega and its crew rescued mariners in distress. The crew aboard the ferry Taku saved two fishermen in October after their boat burst into flames near Juneau.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 27, 2010

No. 10-2565

DOT&PF, Gustavus, NPS to Hold Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – After only a year's worth of construction on Alaska's first economic stimulus project, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) will join with the City of Gustavus and the U.S. National Park Service Monday, Aug. 30 at 4 p.m., in Gustavus for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly constructed causeway and dock facility.

Construction began in June 2009 to replace the state-owned Gustavus pier and causeway, a facility that became a safety hazard following years of weather exposure.

The new pier and causeway is a roll-off and roll-on marine transfer facility capable of mooring freighters, freight and fuel barges, transport vessels, and sightseeing vessels.

Expected to be completed in October, the project will improve marine access in and out of the city and the Glacier Bay National Park Preserve.

Attending Monday afternoon's ceremony will be DOT&PF Commissioner Leo von Scheben; Kim Elton Director of Alaska Affairs; U.S. Department of Interior; Sandi Marchbanks, former Mayor of Gustavus; and Kevin Sweeney, Office of Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

"This project accomplished the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said von Scheben. "The construction brought good paying jobs to Gustavus and soon the community and the park service will have a safe and secure place for barges and ferries."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 31, 2010

No. 10-2567

Officials Cut Ribbon as Gustavus Project Nears Completion

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Construction of Alaska's first economic stimulus project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a new pier and causeway in the Southeast community of Gustavus, is nearing completion and officials joined Monday to cut a ribbon commemorating the milestone.

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For more information please contact Roger Wetherell at (907) 465-8994, or by email to roger.wetherell@alaska.gov.



[CLICK PHOTO TO VIEW LARGER IMAGE](#)

From left: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Cherry Payne, Commissioner Leo von Scheben, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and former City of Gustavus Mayor Sandi Marchbanks. (Official DOT&PF photo by Kraig Norheim)

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 9, 2010

No. 10-2588

Taku Wins Prestigious Award for Rescuing Fishers from Burning Boat

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – For the second time in as many years, the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) will be honored by the United Seaman's Service (USS).

Ferry Taku Capt. Thomas Moore will attend the Admiral of the Ocean Sea award dinner ceremony Friday night in New York City where he will accept the Honored Seafarer Award on behalf of the ship, AMHS and the State of Alaska.

AMHS and the Taku crew are being honored for the rescue Taku's crew performed of two men off the burning fishing vessel Alaskan Pride in Chatham Strait Oct. 13, 2009.

The award presentation and dinner is hosted and coordinated by the USS. The USS is an organization that has promoted the welfare of seamen since 1942 and supplies seagoing libraries to the American Merchant Marine, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, and to seafarers of allied nations through its affiliate, the American Merchant Marine Library Association, Public Library of the High Seas since 1921.

"Our ferry crews are expertly trained in lifesaving at sea," said Leo von Scheben, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. "This award for Taku's crew marks another great milestone in the AMHS history books – one that I and all Alaskans can be proud of."

The 352-foot Taku had departed Juneau and was sailing to Hoonah when a call for help came over the ship's radio. The Alaskan Pride's captain, Mike Worthington of Kake, reported an engine room fire growing out of control. Worthington and Darren Manual of Spokane, Wash., broadcast a mayday call and abandoned the 55-foot boat for a life raft. Taku diverted course in 35-knot winds and 10-foot seas to pull the uninjured fishers to safety.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 18, 2010

No. 10-2590

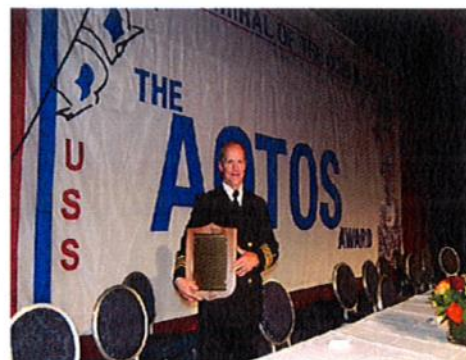
Taku Skipper Accepts Lifesaving Award Before 800 in New York City

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) Capt. Thomas Moore accepted the Honored Seafarer Award on behalf of the ship, AMHS and the State of Alaska Nov. 13 during the Admiral of the Ocean Sea award ceremony in New York City.

AMHS and the Taku crew were honored for a rescue Taku's crew performed Oct. 13, 2009. The 352-foot Taku departed Juneau and was sailing to Hoonah when a call for help came over the ship's radio. The Alaskan Pride's captain, Mike Worthington of Kake, reported an engine room fire growing out of control. Worthington and Darren Manual of Spokane, Wash., broadcast a mayday call and abandoned the 55-foot boat for a life raft. Taku diverted course in 35-knot winds and 10-foot seas to pull the uninjured fishers to safety.

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USS presented the award to the fast vehicle ferry Chenega in 2008 after the ship saved three boaters off the Whittier coast.



[CLICK PHOTO TO VIEW LARGER IMAGE](#)

New York City - AMHS Capt. Thomas Moore displays the award he accepted Friday night (Nov. 13, 2010) for his crew's lifesaving efforts of two fishermen near Juneau Oct. 13, 2009. (Official DOT&PF photo by Roger W. Wetherell)

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 19, 2010

No. 10-2593

□

AMHS, Alaskans Set for Inaugural Gustavus Sailing

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) will make its first sailing to Gustavus Tuesday.

Gustavus, located about 50 miles west of Juneau and adjacent to Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, was the largest roadless community in Southeast Alaska not connected to the marine highway system.

Construction of a new causeway was completed this month allowing AMHS vessels to safely dock in Gustavus.

"Construction of the causeway was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the city, the U.S. National Park Service and DOT&PF," said Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Commissioner Leo von Scheben.

The two-lane causeway connects to a 6,000 square-foot dock. A pontoon-supported, tidally-operated transfer bridge and ramp provide roll-on/roll-off access for multiple types of freight and equipment including Alaska Marine Highway vessels, common carrier barge lines, petroleum barges, transport and sightseeing vessels.

"Gustavus citizens are obviously excited about this service as is AMHS," added Jim Beedle, DOT&PF's Deputy Commissioner of Marine Operations. "Aurora's car deck is sold out between Juneau and Gustavus for this sailing."

The schedule for future sailings to Gustavus is available online at <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/schedules.shtml>. Travelers may also contact the AMHS Central Reservations Office by calling (907) 465-3941 or (800) 642-0066.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 24, 2010

No. 10-2594

□

AMHS Makes First Port Call in Gustavus

(JUNEAU, Alaska) - The Alaska Marine Highway System ferry Aurora completed the system's maiden voyage to Gustavus Tuesday.

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For more information, contact Roger W. Wetherell, Chief Communications Officer at (907) 465-8994 or by email to roger.wetherell@alaska.gov.



[CLICK PHOTO TO VIEW LARGER IMAGE](#)

Friends and relatives greet passengers disembarking from the ferry Aurora Tuesday after the ship arrived in Gustavus for the Alaska Marine Highway System's inaugural sailing to the city. (Official DOT&PF photo by Roger W. Wetherell)

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 26, 2010

No. 10-2595

□

Ferry Chenega Crew Rescues Kayaker

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – A kayaker is safe today after being rescued from rough seas by the crew of the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry Chenega in Prince William Sound.

Chenega's crew received a radio call from the U.S. Coast Guard at 12:38 this afternoon reporting a kayaker in distress off Slope Point.

The ship's crew maneuvered the ferry toward the kayaker, launched the ferry's fast rescue boat and recovered the individual.

The uninjured kayaker was taken to Cordova where the ship arrived about 4:30 today.

Chenega's crew has rescued mariners in distress three times in the past two years.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2012

No.: 12-2533

Contact: Jeremy Woodrow, 907-465-8994, Jeremy.Woodrow@alaska.gov

Direct Ferry Service from Angoon to Sitka Returns May 3, 2012

(JUNEAU, ALASKA) – The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) will resume direct Angoon to Sitka ferry service beginning Thursday May 3, 2012.

"It has been a while since we were able to offer this direct connection," said Michael Neussl, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations. "The recently rebuilt Angoon ferry terminal dock that is compatible with the fast ferry is what makes this service possible."

The FVF Fairweather will provide service to Angoon twice per week throughout the 2012 summer season. Each Thursday the ferry will depart Juneau to Angoon, Sitka and back to Juneau. On Saturdays the Fairweather will sail the reverse route departing Juneau to Sitka, Angoon and then back to Juneau that evening.

The one-way adult passenger fare from Angoon to Sitka has been set at \$35. Travelers are encouraged to make reservations in advance either online at FerryAlaska.com, by calling 1-800-642-0066, or visiting the ferry terminal staff in Juneau, Sitka or elsewhere throughout the system. Additional fare information is available online or from reservations agents.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries serving 34 communities, 5,700 miles of highway and 660 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of DOT&PF is to "*Get Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure."

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 20, 2012

No.: 12-2534

Contact: Jeremy Woodrow, 907-465-8994, Jeremy.Woodrow@alaska.gov

Tustumena to Call on Ouzinkie April 27

(JUNEAU, ALASKA) –The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) M/V Tustumena will begin service to Ouzinkie, Alaska Friday, April 27, 2012.

“I am proud to be able to provide ferry service to an additional Alaskan community,” said Michael Neussl, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations.

The addition of ferry service to Ouzinkie was made possible by the newly constructed city dock intentionally designed to accommodate the M/V Tustumena. This was confirmed on April 6, 2012 during a successful trial run that verified everything was in place and functional for passenger and vehicle service to begin.

Ouzinkie, located on Spruce Island 16 nautical miles from Kodiak, Alaska, becomes the thirty-fourth AMHS port of call and the thirty-second community in Alaska to receive direct ferry service. The addition of the new port comes at very little cost to AMHS because the M/V Tustumena already sails by Ouzinkie while en route from Port Lions to Kodiak and back again later the same day.

“I hear from communities every day about how valuable a reliable transportation system is for economic development and community sustainability,” said Neussl, “AMHS is pleased to provide that opportunity to the residents and visitors of Ouzinkie.”

Beginning in June the community will receive ferry service every other Friday throughout the 2012 summer season. The one-way adult passenger fare from Ouzinkie to Kodiak has been set at \$33. Travelers are encouraged to make reservations in advance either online at FerryAlaska.com, by calling 1-800-642-0066, or visiting the ferry terminal staff in Kodiak or elsewhere throughout the system. Additional fare information is available online or from reservations agents.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries now serving 34 communities, 5,700 miles of highway and 660 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of DOT&PF is to “*Get Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 27, 2012

No.: 12-2537

Contact: Jeremy Woodrow, 907-465-8994, Jeremy.Woodrow@alaska.gov

Alaska Marine Highway 50th Anniversary Public Comment Period Closes May 11, 2012

(JUNEAU, ALASKA) –The public comment period for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) 50th Anniversary celebration will close May 11, 2012.

AMHS will begin the yearlong celebration in 2013 and is looking for interesting ideas of how the ferry system can celebrate its golden anniversary. Anyone with ideas is encouraged to email amhs50@alaska.gov before the deadline.

As part of the celebration, AMHS is also looking for unique anecdotal information or photos.

“If you have historic photos, information or a good personal story to share that will help make this anniversary special, the Alaska Marine Highway would like to hear from you,” said Michael Neussl, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations.

More information about the Alaska Marine Highway 50th Anniversary may be found online at FerryAlaska.com.

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ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 15, 2012

No.: 12-2558

Contact: Jeremy Woodrow, 907-465-8994, Jeremy.Woodrow@alaska.gov

Tustumena to Call on Old Harbor June 18

(JUNEAU, Alaska) –The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) M/V Tustumena will begin service to Old Harbor, Alaska Monday, June 18, 2012.

“I am proud that AMHS is able to provide ferry service to another Alaskan community,” said Michael Neussl, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations.

Old Harbor, located on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island, is about 70 air miles from the city of Kodiak, Alaska. The community becomes the thirty-fifth AMHS port of call and the thirty-third community in Alaska to receive direct ferry service. It is also the second community to be added to the Alaska Marine Highway System in 2012; the M/V Tustumena began calling on Ouzinkie, Alaska in April.

“Communities comment almost every day about the importance of a reliable transportation system for economic development and community sustainability,” said Neussl, “AMHS is pleased to provide that opportunity to the residents and visitors of Old Harbor.”

During the 2012 summer season the M/V Tustumena will call on Old Harbor four times while sailing either to or from the city of Kodiak as part of the Aleutian Chain run. The port call dates are June 18, June 28, August 13 and August 23.

The one-way adult passenger fare from Old Harbor to Kodiak has been set at \$44. Travelers are encouraged to make reservations in advance either online at FerryAlaska.com, by calling 1-800-642-0066, or visiting the ferry terminal staff in Kodiak or elsewhere throughout the system. Additional fare information is available online or from reservations agents.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries serving 35 communities, 5,700 miles of highway and 660 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of DOT&PF is to “*Get Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure.”

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 14, 2012

No.: 12-2575

Contact: Jeremy Woodrow, 907-465-8994, Jeremy.Woodrow@alaska.gov

AMHS Fast Ferry Tracking Data Now Available Online

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) announced today that FerryAlaska.com visitors can now view real-time vessel tracking information for the Fast Vehicle Ferries (FVF) Fairweather and Chenega.

Through the AMHS online system map, FerryAlaska.com users now have access to the real-time tracking information for all 11 Alaska Marine Highway ferries. Upon selecting the ferry of their choice a traveler can view the following real-time data: Vessel Status, Destination, Speed, Course, Location Coordinates, and Estimated Time of Arrival.

“The system map feature on FerryAlaska.com is an extremely useful tool,” said Michael Neussl, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations. “It allows travelers to access real-time tracking information for every AMHS ferry at any time, day or night.”

The AMHS online system map is one of four options travelers may use when seeking vessel information. For news and updates via email or text message, travelers may sign up for GovDelivery using the link on the homepage at FerryAlaska.com; and by phone, travelers can dial 5-1-1 from any phone in Alaska or call the toll-free reservations line at 800-642-0066.

“The online system map provides another efficient and convenient way for the public to access important information regarding Alaska’s ferries,” said Neussl. “Since AMHS vessels are continuously monitored, we are able to provide this information at no additional cost to AMHS operations.”

To access the AMHS online system map, visit FerryAlaska.com and select “System Map” from the “Plan a Trip” dropdown menu located at the top of the webpage.

The online fast ferry vessel tracking information is made possible through a partnership with AMHS and the Marine Exchange of Alaska.

“We greatly appreciate and thank the Marine Exchange of Alaska for assisting us in this effort,” said Neussl.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries serving 35 communities, 5,619 miles of highway and 720 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of ADOT&PF is to “*Get Alaska Moving* through service and infrastructure.”

ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 5, 2012

No.: 12-2580

Contact: Jeremy Woodrow, 907-465-8994, Jeremy.Woodrow@alaska.gov

AMHS Unveils New Logo to Celebrate 50 Years

(JUNEAU, Alaska) –The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) recently unveiled its new corporate logo. The logo was designed to celebrate the upcoming 50th Anniversary in 2013.

The new logo consists of a stylized Alaska Marine Highway vessel, corporate name and a “50 years” ribbon, which will be removed after the anniversary. The round design was inspired by portholes of ocean going vessels, while the vessel, with its iconic bow plowing forward, stands as the centerpiece.

“The Alaska Marine Highway has been a proud symbol for Alaskans for fifty years,” said Michael Neussl, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations. “The new logo will continue to represent Alaska and its ferry system as we move into another 50 years of service.”

The original artwork was designed in Alaska for AMHS. The logo will serve as a key element in branding the ferry system as a provider of transportation services to more than 30 coastal communities and as a unique travel experience for Alaskans and visitors alike.

AMHS golden anniversary details will be announced during fall 2012 and will incorporate the numerous communities served by Alaska ferries.

To learn more about the Alaska Marine Highway System visit FerryAlaska.com. Passengers may also book travel online, by calling 1-800-642-0066 or visiting ferry terminal staff throughout the system.

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ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY

- 50th ANNIVERSARY -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 17, 2011

No.: 11-2543

Alaska Marine Highway System Launches Redesigned Website featuring Real-Time Vessel Tracking

(Ketchikan, Alaska) - The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has launched a redesigned and updated website featuring real-time vessel tracking. Nine of the eleven ferries in the AMHS fleet have been outfitted with satellite tracking hardware making it possible to view and track the location of each vessel in real time from the Alaska Marine Highway website at FerryAlaska.com. The two fast ferries, *Chenega* and *Fairweather*, are expected to be equipped with satellite communication equipment in the coming year.

Visitors to the [new website](#) will find the System Map on the main navigation page under the "Plan a Trip" tab. The tracking application makes it easy to search for vessels by name using a dropdown menu at the top of the page, and vessel icons can be clicked to reveal details about each ship. Available information includes navigation status, location, course, speed, destination, estimated time of arrival, and time of last update. Locating and learning about Alaska communities served by the Marine Highway is also made easy with images, terminal locations, and demographic information available for each city served. "This tool will be very useful for people who want to know when a ship will arrive at a particular terminal" said Captain Michael Neussl, the DOT&PF Deputy Commissioner for Marine Operations. "They will be able to see it actually approach the dock in real time with this tool."

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 254 airports, 11 ferries serving 33 communities, 5,700 miles of highway, and 660 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ***Get Alaska Moving through Service and Infrastructure*** by providing for the safe movement of people and goods.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 15, 2011

No.: 11-2563

Contact: Captain Mike Neussl, (907) 465-6977, michael.neussl@alaska.gov

Alaska Marine Highway System Updates Available by Phone

(JUNEAU, Alaska) — The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) is excited to announce that the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has been added to the department's 511 Traveler Information system. This new way to gather vessel information will be helpful to all Alaskans who travel by ferry.

"We encourage people to call 511 from any phone in Alaska and check out the system," said Captain Mike Neussl, Deputy Commissioner, AMHS. "This is an easy way to get real-time ferry information quickly and conveniently; the system is live 24/7."

- Within Alaska, travelers can call the system by dialing 511 or 1-800-642-0066. This new service maintains 24-hour information with real-time data.
- To use the service, call 511 and say, "Alaska Marine Highway". Callers will enter into an easy-to-navigate, automated voice-recognition system with information on arrivals, departures or schedules. This is extremely helpful when checking for changes to the ferry schedule.
- The system will transfer callers to a reservation agent or terminal at any time.

The same data that is maintained on the 511 system is also kept on the Alaska Marine Highway's "intelligent" map at www.dot.alaska.gov/amhs/map.shtml. Click on a ship icon and a pop-up box will appear that shows each vessel's status, next port and estimated time of arrival.

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